

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293475

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. THE CHANCERY FIRE ESCAPE PROBLEM IS GETTING A LOT OF VERY HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION HERE AS A RESULT OF AMBASSADOR SAYRE'S VISIT. WE MAY EVEN FACTOR IT INTO THE CHANCERY ISSUE IN SOME FASHION. SEEMS TO US THAT YOU SHOULD MAKE AN INSISTENT APPEAL TO UPDK SOONEST FOR ACTION, REPORT THE RESPONSE IN A FASHION THAT ENSURES WIDE DISTRIBUTION HERE, AND AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE A FURTHER PITCH AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL. SAME WITH THE SCHOOL PROBLEM.

2. WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE FLORENTSIA APARTMENT RECONFIGURATION AT PRESENT? IF OUR EARLIER APPROACHES TO THE EMBASSY HERE HAVE DONE NO GOOD, WE'LL ESCALATE, POSSIBLY TELLING THE SOVS THAT THEY CAN'T DO ANY OF THEIR OWN WORK ON THEIR NY APARTMENTS. SOME LONG DISTANCE PHONING TO KIEV MAY HELP HIGHLIGHT THE SITUATION.

3. SPACE NEEDED FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES: WE THOUGHT THE
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19,500 SQ FT FIGURE YOU GAVE US MIGHT BE A LITTLE HIGH SO

WE COMPARED IT WITH WHAT IS BEING PLANNED FOR THE NEW COMPLEX. THE NEW COMPLEX HAS 18,900 SQ FT GROSS SPACE (12,600 SQ FT NET USABLE SPACE) SET ASIDE FOR SCHOOL

FACILITIES. SINCE IT WOULD NOT SEEM LOGICAL TO REQUEST MORE SPACE THAN WE WILL HAVE IN THE NEW BUILDING, WE USED THE LATTER FIGURES IN OUR MEMO.

4. RE THE CONSULAR REVIEW, SCA/SCS IS WORKING ON SOMETHING ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY. WE BELIEVE THE RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENT MAY BE MORE OF AN OBSTACLE THAN THE VERIFICATION-OF-RECORDS ISSUE. WITH THE LARGE SOVIET IMMIGRATION TO THE US IN RECENT YEARS, THE HARD-CURRENCY CASH FLOW UNDER THE RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE IN OUR FAVOR AND THEREFORE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE SOVIET GOVT. ALSO, OUR ENTHUSIASM IS TEMPERED BY OUR REALIZATION THAT, IF THE USG STARTED PAYING SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE USSR, A NUMBER OF ELDERLY PERSONS HERE MIGHT RETIRE TO THE USSR, GENERATING NUMEROUS CONSULAR PROBLEMS. WE ARE SENDING YOU SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THE IMMUNITIES QUESTION IN THE CONSULAR REVIEW, AND WE MAY SEND YOU SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THE SIEVERS CASE.

5. COULD YOU CLARIFY WHETHER YOU GAVE PHILBY'S AMERICAN (OR FORMER AMERICAN) WIFE A VISA AND GIVE US THE DATES? WE HAVE RECOLLECTIONS THAT HER VISITING THE US WAS IN THE WORKS, BUT WE DO NOT RECALL BEING AWARE OF HER ACTUALLY RECEIVING THE VISA. THE LONDON TELEGRAPH REPORTEDLY HAS A STORY ABOUT HER COMING TO THE US FOR CHRISTMAS.

6. CHANCERIES CONSTRUCTION: IN THE RUSH OF TRYING TO MEET DEMANDS FROM ON HIGH REGARDING THE SOVIET RESPONSE TO OUR LIST OF REQUIREMENTS, WE WERE FORCED TO PICK SOME ARBITRARY DATES TO WHICH WE WOULD ASK THE SOVIETS TO COMMIT THEMSELVES. WE PICKED FOLLOWING DATES: APPROVAL OF OUR DESIGN PLANS (AS PRECONDITION TO COST COMMITMENTS - JANUARY 1, 1977; PROVISION OF SCHOOL BUILDING - JULY 1, 1977; PROVISION OF THREE REMAINING APARTMENTS REQUESTED IN FEBRUARY, 1975 - BY JUNE 1, 1977; CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL PROPERTY - MAY 1, 1977; PROVISION OF WAREHOUSE SPACE - JANUARY 1, 1977. HOPE THIS CAUSES YOU NO PROBLEM.

5. GOOD IDEA ON MARITIME DEMARCHE, BUT WILL TAKE A LOT OF BACKING OUT HERE. I'M NOT SURE YOU WERE INFORMED OF DEMARCHE TO TOLYA AT HIGHER LEVEL LAST WEEK. INITIAL SESSIONS OF NEGOTIATIONS ARE DIFFICULT AS USUAL, BUT JIM

SEES SOME SIGNS SOVIETS MAY EVENTUALLY TALK TURKEY.

7. I UNDERSTAND TOM IS SHIPPING MARSHALL'S DOG AND WILL
LET MARSHALL KNOW ARRIVAL TIME THROUGH THIS CHANNEL. ROBINSON

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